

(a) whether the coir board has undertaken any new promotional plan for its products;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount allocated for various promotional activities during the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) Coir Board undertakes promotional measures for its products under various Plan schemes such as Domestic Market Development, Export Promotion, Trade Information System, support for training infrastructure technology transfer, Mahila Coir Yojana, support to brown fibre sector and Research and Development.

The Plan schemes of Coir Board aim at substantial growth in the production of coir fibre, facilities to process the coir fibre and coir pith into value added products and expansion of market for coir products in India and abroad, contributing better employment to the existing workers and generation of additional employment and higher income to all in the Coir Industry.

The thrust of the Research & Development Programmes is on modernisation, quality upgradation, product diversification, new product development and improved productivity which would result in higher wages and better standard of living for the workers engaged in the industry and growth of economy in coir producing States and growth in foreign exchange earning of the Nation. Finding new markets for coir both within the country and outside and new uses and applications for this natural fibre has also been accorded top priority. Training cum employment and providing fuller employment to the workers and assistance for modernisation are other areas of importance in the present proposals.

(c) Budget allocation for Plan schemes of Coir Board for the last three years are :

	(Rs. in lakhs)
1993-94	570 00
1994-95	570 00
1995-96	690.00

Setting up of Coffee Processing Unit by Coffee Board in Kerala

127. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to start a coffee processing unit in Kerala by the Coffee Board;

(b) whether the Government of Kerala has made any request to the Union Government for setting up such units;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the estimated cost of the units; and

(d) the action taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Technology Upgradation Fund

128. SHRI B.L. SHANKAR : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a technology upgradation fund for textiles sector during the Ninth Plan period;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the criteria of its distribution; and

(c) the extent to which it is likely to help to boost the export of textiles ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) : (a) to (c) A proposal is under consideration to facilitate modernisation, through technological upgradation of the textile industry. The intended objective is to improve production and productivity of the Indian textile industry to make it more competitive, including in the export market. Details of the Scheme are yet to be worked out.

Civilian Armed Forces for Income Tax Raids

129. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI :
KUNWAR SARVARAJ SINGH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Income Tax authorities have demanded for a separate special civilian armed force to assist them during Income Tax raids;

(b) if so, the action taken thereon; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken to protect the life and properties of officials entrusted with the duties of Income Tax raids ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c) All necessary steps are taken for the security of the officials engaged in search duties. Since 'law and order' is a State subject, armed police force is provided by various State Governments for the security of the I.T. search parties. Besides, sufficient number of operational vehicles and communication equipments have been provided to all Directorates for increasing safety and efficiency of the officials engaged in searches.

Assistance to Coir Industry

130. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from Government of Kerala for getting assistance for the Coir Industry in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government are aware that Coir Industry is facing problems;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government to remedy the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (e) Proposals have been received from the Government of Kerala for assistance under various schemes. One such proposal is for assistance under Integrated Coir Development Project of Kerala Government. This proposal has been examined in the Ministry and sanction for release of Rs. 1.70 crores for ICDP of Kerala has been issued. Another proposal of the Kerala Government was for a one time special grant of Rs. 2 crores for funding towards distress purchase scheme sanctioned by Government of Kerala to clear the stocks of coir and coir products from the producing centres. The proposal was examined and it was found that Government does not have any budgetary provision for such financial assistance. However sanction for release of a loan of Rs. 80 lakhs to COIRFED, Kerala through the Coir Board has been issued for distress purchase of coir and coir products by re-appropriation from other Head of Account.

Another proposal of the Kerala Government was for release of Rs. 50 lakhs towards contribution to Kerala Coir Workers Welfare Fund Board. Sanction for release of this amount has already been issued by the Government

B.I.F.R.

131. SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY :
SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA :
SHRI HARADHAN ROY :
SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the revival schemes sanctioned by the BIFR are not becoming effecting due to non-compliance with the provisions of the plan by the promoters such as Financial Institutions and Banks etc; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to remedy the situation and to avoid delay in deciding the cases of sick public sector companies ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) The Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) has reported that during the course of review of the implementation of the rehabilitation schemes sanctioned by it for the revival of sick industrial companies, certain instances of non compliance with the provisions of the rehabilitation schemes by the promoters, financial institutions and banks due to various reasons have been noticed.

(b) BIFR has reported that monitoring agencies have been directed to send progress reports regarding the implementation of the rehabilitation schemes on time to enable the BIFR to initiate timely remedial measures, wherever necessary. It may also be added that in case of failure to comply with the provisions of a sanctioned scheme, BIFR has powers to invoke penal provision as provided under section 33 of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985.

[Translation]

Use of Hindi

132. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether his ministry has modern gadgets installed such as computer, telex, teleprinting etc. which are in Roman Script and these are being converted into bilingual;

(b) if so, the manner in which these bilingual gadgets will be put into use by the Ministry;

(c) the manner in which the use of Hindi will be promoted;

(d) whether the Ministry has given exemption for use of Hindi to their offices located in Region 'A' where work has to be done cent percent in Hindi; and

(e) if so, the reasons for giving such an exemption ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The officials of the Ministry are being encouraged to use these modern bilingual gadgets for their day-today official work so that the use of Hindi is promoted.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Photo Identity Cards

133. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :
KUMARI UMA BHARATI :
JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA :
SHRI SURENDRA YADAV :
DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA :
PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDU MAJRA :

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons in the country issued photo Identity Cards so far State-wise;

(b) the amount spent on issuing photo Identity Cards; and

(c) the time by which photo Identity Cards are likely to be issued to all the eligible voters ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) A Statement is attached.

(b) The Central Government has, so far, released a sum of about Rs. 423 crore to various State Governments and Union Territories for the implementation of the scheme of photo identity cards.